12 - THE CAROLINA TIMES SAT., NOVEMBER 15, 1975

## N. C. State English Major Acts and Directs **Productions At Thompson Theatre**

Herman LaVerne Jones has found his place in life. That place is the black theater, and right now North Carolina State University's Thompson Theatre is where he's pursuing his interests.

"It's a really serious thing with me," Jones, a senior English major from Garner, says earnestly about his involvement with black drama.

Jones has done what few students will do during their college careers - he has not only acted in and directed several productions at Thompson, the campus student theater, but he has formed his own company, written his own plays and staged his own

productions. The LaVerne Players, Jones' company, performed before over 300 persons last weekend in their first show of the season, "Who's Got His Own?" The Play by Ron Milner, is a black drama as are all of Jones' productions; in it, six N. C.

the play required.

State students portrayed a 'Who's Got His Gwn" gave black family in crisis. FORMED OWN COMPANY

that kind of performance last weekend. "They have been the Jones formed his company last spring with a group of six best folk in the whole world,' he says. "And we have a real students; this year its members black thing going - there's a definite relationship between number 35. Nearly that many auditioned for "Who's Got His us; we just throw off energy." Own," and Jones was pleased This emphasis on the black to have the large field of talent from which to choose the cast

rather than a liability.

experience underlies all of Jones' interests and ventures in the theater. But although he indicates that, "Basically I'm trying to hit black folk. Once we learn more about ourselves, FM 107wdbs then we can better deal with outside things," he also sees his their relationship."

plays as "a message to both black and white folk about Jones says he attempts to find dramatic material "that's going to mean something to

theater today. He is Because there is no drama department at N. C. State, Jones rarely finds actors who theatrical unimpressed with productions created simply to entertain, and feels there possess expert theatrical skills remains a great educational but he sees that as an asset role for theater to play in black communities. "I think you can get

ordinary people to do superior work," he emphasizes. And he believes the cast of REALISTIC THEATER Jones explains that black

theater is a young art form. and is still undergoing many changes. Today, he says, it deals primarily with realistic situations, particularly dwelling on black history. This aspect of black theater is something he hopes will change: "We're past the point where we always have to relate to our past,"

Jones learned most of his acting and production skills through participation in other Thompson Theater shows, and during summer stock work. He acknowledges that it is sometimes difficult for a student to teach and direct his peers, but says that he feels he has a lot to offer, and that most participants in his group are very willing to learn. The LaVerne Players include several other plays in their repertoire, "Let's Make a Slave,' and

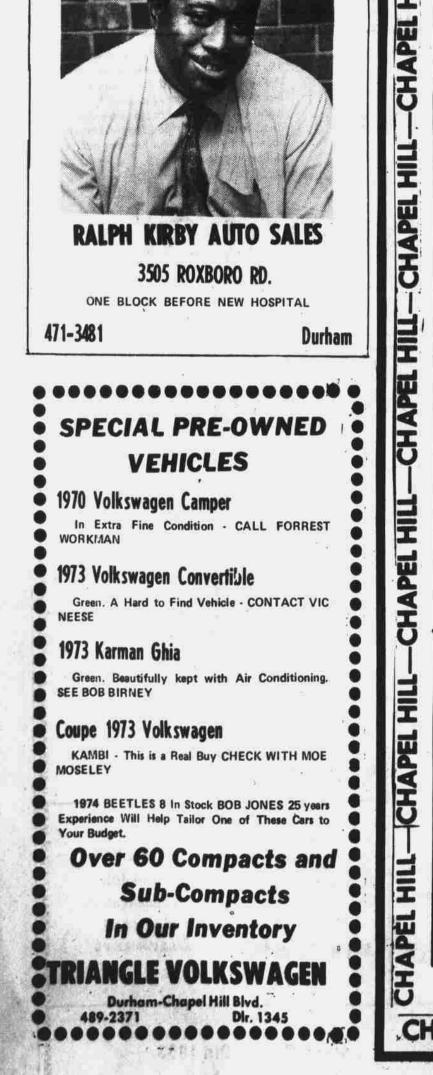
"Black Woman," among them.



ST. AUG'S STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CABINET - These are the Student Government Association cabinet members. Front row, seated: Gilbert Knowles, president, a senior from Miami, Fla.; Jean Battles, vice president, a senior from Philadelphia, Pa.; Jacqueline White secretary, a senior from Scotland Neck; and Ormand Wright, chief justice, a senior from Nassau, Bahamas. Standing, left to right: Glenda Battle, "Miss Saint Augustine's College, a senior from Scotland Neck; Augustus Toomey, student trustee, a junior from Liberia; Carmer U. Mikell, assistant executive secretary, a junior from Charleston, S. C.,; Michelle Miller, director of campus affairs, a junior from Montclair, N. J.; Henry Briggs, business manager, a senior from Murfreesboro; and Harvey Modica, office manager, a junior from Robersonville.







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